

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2000

The reported domestic primary aluminum production in April was 316,063 metric tons. The average daily production rate was 10,535 tons, slightly lower than that of the previous month but 2% above the rate for April 1999.

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased from 76.15 cents per pound in March to 70.62 cents per pound in April, according to Platt's Metals Week. According to American Metal Market, the buying price range for processed aluminum used beverage can (UBC) scrap decreased 2 cents per pound to 59 to 60 cents per pound on April 4. This was followed by another drop to a range of 54 to 55 cents per pound on April 14. The price range remained at this level through the end of the month. According to Resource Recycling's Container Recycling Report, the monthly transaction price for aluminum UBC's decreased from 60.5 cents per pound in March to 55.0 cents per pound in April.

### U.S. Trade Through March

Total imports for consumption for the first quarter of 2000 increased 9% compared with the total for the first quarter of 1999. Imports were higher in all three categories detailed in table 6. Imports of crude metal and alloys from Russia increased significantly (38%) during the first 3 months of 2000.

Total exports for the first quarter of 2000 increased 10% compared with those for the same period in 1999.

### Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum

ingot increased to 70.94 cents per pound in May. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBC's held steady at 54 to 55 cents per pound during the month of May.

Alcan Aluminium Limited and Alusuisse Lonza Group Ltd. (algroup) announced that they had reached agreement on the proposed merger of the two companies. The merger will involve the combination of a cash payment of 225 Swiss francs and the exchange of 17.1 Alcan common shares for every algroup share. The approval of algroup shareholders will be sought in an Extraordinary Meeting to be held in July 2000 (Alcan Aluminium Limited, 2000a). This two-way merger follows the decision made in April by Alcan and algroup to withdraw a previously announced three-way merger among Alcan, algroup, and Pechiney and to terminate their Combination Agreement insofar as Pechiney was concerned. The companies had been unable to receive regulatory approval from the European Commission or the U.S. Department of Justice. According to the companies, the required divestments for approval would have threatened the economic viability of the proposed three-way merger (Alcan Aluminium Limited, 2000b).

### References Cited

- Alcan Aluminium Limited, 2000a, Alcan and algroup to merge: Montreal, Canada, and Zurich, Switzerland, Alcan press release, June 1, 2 p.  
———2000b, Proposed Alcan-Pechiney-algroup merger will not proceed; Alcan-algroup merger agreement remains in force: Montreal, Canada, Paris, France, and Zurich, Switzerland, Alcan press release, April 13, 2 p.

TABLE 1  
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery 2/			Imports for consumption			Total new supply 3/	Total stocks, end of period 4/
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
1999: p/	3,779	2,070	1,420	3,490	2,650	735	3,390	10,700	1,870
1999:									
April	309	181	113	295	311	63	374	977	1,810
May	319	172	119	292	281	67	348	959	1,810
June	310	177	120	297	258	63	321	928	1,810
July	319	167	118	286	213	62	275	881	1,860
August	324	180	127	306	219	65	284	914	1,880
September	310	172	125	297	178	63	241	848	1,860
October	323	168	127	295	202	59	261	879	1,900
November	316	170	121	292	178	61	239	846	1,880
December	328	169	111	280	180	59	239	846	1,870
January-April	1,230	689	451	1,140	942	236	1,180	3,550	1,810
2000:									
January	329	180 r/	124 r/	304	246	62	308	942 r/	1,890 r/
February	308	190 r/	121 r/	312 r/	213	64	276	896	1,850
March	327	196 r/	119 r/	316 r/	206	71	277	920	1,840
April	316	189	116	305	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-April	1,281	756	480	1,240	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

3/ Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

4/ Includes scrap; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2  
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
1999: p/	2,180	1,640	1,230	1,080	727	672	97	86	6	6	4,240	3,490
1999:												
April	179	135	111	99	56	52	9	8	(2/)	(2/)	356	295
May	181	136	113	100	52	48	9	8	(2/)	(2/)	355	292
June	180	135	116	103	55	51	9	8	1	1	360	297
July	180	136	112	98	50	46	6	5	(2/)	(2/)	348	286
August	186	139	95	84	82	75	9	8	1	1	372	306
September	184	138	98	86	71	65	8	7	1	1	362	297
October	192	144	94	82	67	61	8	7	(2/)	(2/)	362	295
November	188	141	91	80	69	63	8	7	(2/)	(2/)	356	292
December	166	127	92	80	71	66	7	6	1	1	336	280
January-April	723	544	418	369	210	195	34	30	2	2	1,390	1,140
2000:												
January	194 r/	145 r/	93 r/	82	74 r/	68 r/	10	9	(2/)	(2/)	371 r/	304
February	192 r/	144 r/	94 r/	83	83 r/	76 r/	9	8	(2/)	(2/)	378 r/	312 r/
March	199 r/	149 r/	91	80	83 r/	77 r/	10	9	1 r/	1 r/	383 r/	316 r/
April	197	148	86	76	80	74	8	7	1	1	372	305
January-April	782	587	365	321	320	295	36	32	2	2	1,510	1,240

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED  
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN APRIL 2000 1/

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	165,000	197,000	123,000	148,000
Integrated aluminum companies	86,200	86,200	75,700	75,700
Independent mill fabricators	66,900	80,300	61,900	74,200
Foundries	6,750	8,100	5,740	6,890
Other consumers	434	521	434	521
Total	325,000	372,000	267,000	305,000

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4  
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN  
APRIL 2000 1/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening	Net receipts 2/	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Solids	32,900 r/	92,800	93,400	32,300
Can stock clippings	10,900 r/	28,800	29,100	10,600
Other clippings	6,170 r/	10,500	10,500	6,090
Borings and turnings	6,250 r/	27,600	27,500	6,320
Dross and skimmings	3,620 r/	44,400	44,400	3,600
Total new scrap	59,800 r/	204,000	205,000	58,900
Old scrap:				
Used casting, sheet, and clippings	6,830 r/	47,000	47,000	6,810
Aluminum-copper radiators	2,700 r/	2,540	2,420	2,820
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	19,100	66,800	63,800	22,100
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,700 r/	5,780	5,780	1,700
Total old scrap	30,300 r/	122,000	119,000	33,400
Sweated pig	501 r/	981	981	501
Total all classes	90,600 r/	327,000	325,000	92,900

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5  
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2000 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

	April				January-April 3/	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,270 r/	2,100	2,690	2,680	10,200	10,600
380 and variations	18,400 r/	50,700	50,600	18,400	202,000	202,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,410 r/	3,120	3,140	3,390	12,500	12,500
No. 319 and variations	8,700 r/	15,100	15,100	8,710	61,300	61,100
F-132 alloy and variations	2,580 r/	4,750	4,750	2,580	19,300	19,100
Al-Zn alloys	447	1,420	1,420	447	5,690	5,690
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	91	168	168	91	673	673
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	--	77	77	--	308	308
Other 4/	7,960 r/	9,270	9,160	8,080	34,600	34,000
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	6,300 r/	19,200	19,000	6,450	77,700	77,500
Total all alloys	51,100 r/	106,000	106,000	50,900	425,000	424,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	6,070	XX	XX	24,400	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	4,370	XX	XX	17,300	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	995	XX	XX	3,930	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot 5/	XX	94,500	XX	XX	379,000	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

1/ Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

2/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes revised data from previous month(s).

4/ Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

5/ No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2000 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March
Argentina	4,870	11,200	72	1,250	437	860	5,380	13,300
Australia	2,150	6,350	216	571	--	--	2,360	6,920
Bahrain	2,830	3,790	2,400	6,440	--	--	5,230	10,200
Belgium	6	6	463	1,180	--	19	469	1,210
Brazil	1,820	8,930	275	848	951	5,820	3,050	15,600
Canada	124,000	368,000	39,300	113,000	26,500	78,000	190,000	559,000
France	69	129	1,080	2,890	1,590	3,550	2,740	6,570
Germany	12	161	4,490	11,300	821	2,280	5,320	13,700
Ghana	--	--	800	800	--	--	800	800
Hungary	--	--	3	162	--	--	3	162
Italy	200	200	138	639	--	(2/)	338	839
Japan	34	102	1,840	5,850	207	253	2,080	6,210
Korea, Republic of	1	1	2,460	5,550	--	24	2,460	5,570
Mexico	386	872	1,950	5,880	6,500	23,200	8,840	30,000
Netherlands	4	58	431	1,140	426	957	861	2,150
Norway	1,080	1,930	24	59	--	--	1,100	1,990
Russia	48,100	199,000	4,000	10,800	13,000	21,700	65,100	231,000
South Africa	2,000	2,030	1,450	2,570	14	66	3,460	4,670
Spain	--	9	2	53	20	20	22	82
Sweden	--	--	420	1,130	--	162	420	1,290
Switzerland	--	--	103	137	1	1	104	138
Ukraine	952	3,990	--	--	1,090	2,750	2,040	6,740
United Arab Emirates	6,880	15,400	--	--	275	1,210	7,160	16,600
United Kingdom	1,550	3,100	1,770	4,310	832	3,000	4,150	10,400
Venezuela	7,970	34,900	2,720	6,980	1,290	5,020	12,000	46,900
Other	857	5,310	4,340	12,800	6,240	17,400	11,400	35,500
Total	206,000	666,000	70,800	196,000	60,300	166,000	337,000	1,030,000

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2000 1/

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March
Australia	(2/)	25	116	581	--	1	116	606
Belgium	--	54	853	1,870	21	41	874	1,970
Brazil	6	9	1,320	6,210	47	47	1,370	6,270
Canada	12,900	36,500	44,900	134,000	22,300	57,600	80,100	228,000
China	1	2	3,490	10,900	6,520	19,300	10,000	30,200
Czech Republic	5	5	(2/)	4	--	--	5	9
Dominican Republic	39	58	15	79	--	--	54	137
France	(2/)	2	385	1,200	249	654	634	1,860
Germany	71	116	712	2,170	135	168	918	2,450
Hong Kong	119	240	145	585	3,760	10,000	4,030	10,900
India	40	40	30	73	--	17	71	130
Israel	83	100	363	902	--	--	446	1,000
Italy	(2/)	(2/)	203	379	8	8	211	388
Japan	3,730	10,600	465	1,640	2,040	6,830	6,230	19,100
Korea, Republic of	331	1,080	1,590	5,100	1,940	6,570	3,860	12,800
Malaysia	--	--	78	250	56	209	134	459
Mexico	11,900	25,200	11,300	31,500	8,290	21,000	31,500	77,800
Netherlands	69	121	131	581	4	16	204	718
Russia	--	--	(2/)	4	--	47	(2/)	51
Saudi Arabia	--	1	469	920	--	--	469	921
Singapore	82	246	128	866	1	102	210	1,210
Spain	--	1	8	58	--	12	8	70
Sweden	(2/)	1	8	59	--	--	8	60
Taiwan	440	789	307	1,440	3,020	8,590	3,770	10,800
Thailand	3	3	35	429	117	256	155	688
United Kingdom	104	281	2,460	5,130	134	155	2,700	5,570
Venezuela	--	--	442	3,520	--	5	442	3,530
Other	263	581	1,850	6,920	586	1,580	2,700	9,070
Total	30,200	76,100	71,800	217,000	49,200	133,000	151,000	426,000

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.